



Wave photo of Belarus men's team by Jay Niederhauser

## Belarus and IBU

Above: The Belarus men's biathlon team showed well during the three-day World Cup event. Vadim Sashurin (second from right) placed second in Saturday's men's 12.5K pursuit and fourth in Friday's 10K pursuit. Although the women's team didn't pick up any medals, they were strong performers. The Wave was honored to be their "spirit team." Left: International Biathlon Union (IBU) Secretary General Peter Beyer poses with Soldier Hollow mountain folk. According to the Wasatch County Olympic Coordinator's office, the IBU gave Soldier Hollow and Wasatch County top reviews. For Ruhrgas World Cup Biathlon highlights turn to photo essay on page C10.





# Staff

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almost everywhere citizens enjoy the right of initiative and referendum (I&R). A legacy of the progressive movement, I&R empowers the citizens of 24

states to pass or stop legislation on their own when their representatives won't. But politicians keep plotting to water down, curtail, and otherwise squelch the rights of the voters.

Utah and Colorado are just two states where voters are being beleaguered, according to a recent report by the Washington-based Initiative & Referendum Institute.

Citizens in Utah have just stopped politicians from killing term limits there. But now their "representatives" are trying to gut I&R itself, the very process needed to make reforms like term limits.

A recently passed bill would let the Utah legislature "amend" successful initiatives before they're even officially added to the legal code; the governor has fecklessly signed the bill. Until now, legislators had to wait at least until an initiative took effect before swinging their meat axe.

The immediate target is an initiative passed last November, called "Initiative B." Initiative B revised forfeiture laws to provide added safeguards to protect the property rights of innocent third parties. Some people thought law enforcement would be unduly hampered by the changes. So the merits of the initiative were vigorously debated. Then it passed by a 70 percent majority.

Initiative B is not scheduled to take effect until March 20. But under Utah's new anti-initiative law, it could be scrapped tomorrow. Not with any legitimacy, to be sure. Not with any respect for the democratic rights of the voters. But who cares about that, right?

That legislators might not like a particular initiative is no surprise, of course. The whole point of initiatives is to enable

days before the election.

Currently, signatures must be submitted 90 days before the election, which allows initiative proponents to take better advantage of the summer months, a prime signature-gathering time.

Colorado legislators have tried before to stop direct democracy, and they've been stopped before-at the level of the Supreme Court. In 1988, in the case of Meyer versus Grant, the Supreme Court struck down Colorado's restriction on paid signature gathering, ruling that ini-

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tiative petitions are protected political speech.

And just a couple years ago, in Buckley versus American Constitutional Law Foundation, the issue had to do with whether petition circulators must wear ID badges and be registered electors before asking anyone to sign on the dotted line. Again, the Supreme Court decided

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